

**CONFIDENTIAL**Executive Reg's  
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Through: Director of Central Intelligence  
 Assistant Director, OCD  
 Assistant Director, ORE

10 AUG 1950

## Effect of Reductions in Service Attaché System

Reference: AD/ORE Memorandum of 24 October 1949 to DCI, Subject: Proposed Reduction in Service Attaché Staffs Abroad

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recommendations  
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1. The Office of Reports and Estimates submits herewith an assessment of the effect of the reductions in staffs of U.S. Service Attachés on the national intelligence effort. The period covered by this assessment is from the date of reductions ordered by the Secretary of Defense in October 1949 to the middle of July 1950.
2. The assessment was made by analyzing the quantity, quality, and scope of coverage of reporting from U.S. posts abroad as compared to the situation before the reductions in staffs of Service Attachés was ordered.
3. The effect of the reductions in staffs of service attachés has not been consistent throughout the world. The most noticeable impact has been in the countries of Western Europe where, with the exception of Switzerland, there has been a definite decrease in all phases of reporting. In other areas of the world the effect has not been widespread, although there have been certain countries where the ineffectiveness in reporting can be traced to the attaché reductions.
4. In the functional field, serious deficiencies have been noted in the quantity and scope of intelligence reporting on railroad and highway transportation from sensitive areas in which attaché reductions were made.
5. Current inadequacies in reporting from the Iron Curtain countries cannot be directly attributable to the reductions proposed by the Defense Establishment, but rather to drastic reductions, and in Bulgaria the complete elimination of US staffs, resulting from Communist pressures. Therefore, it is not possible to estimate with accuracy the effect of the economy measure on reporting from this area.
6. There is attached for your consideration a resume of deficiencies in reporting from certain countries which ORE believes resulted from the reductions in staffs of Service Attachés. Inadequacies in collection and reporting from other countries could not be traced directly to reduction in the Service Attaché staffs.

THEODORE RABBITT

Attachment

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